

Remarks

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action dated as mailed March 15, 2006 and the documents cited therewith and the present amendment has been prepared in response thereto. Independent claims 1, 26 and 33 have been amended. Dependent claims 2, 5, 9, 10 and 14 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 26 and 33 have been amended to require a tang forming the base of the first blade and a tab protruding from the tang. The pocket has a flange formed in the first cooperating member or handle. The pocket closely receives at least a portion of the first cutting edge or the second cutting edge of the blades and substantially the entirety of the tang and the tab of the blades such that the flange abuts the first blade and substantially the entirety of the tang and the tab. The tang of the blades defines two tang apertures where one of said tang apertures is aligned to receive the pivot. The first blade is removably mounted using the pivot and the engagement of the tang and the tab in the pocket.

Thus, the claims require that a pocket be formed in the first cooperating member where the pocket receives the second cutting edge of the blade, the tang and the tab. The pivot is inserted through one of two apertures formed in the tang. The claimed arrangement is a very simple and effective way to removably mount a blade in a cutting tool. The engagement of the cutting edge, tang and tab with the closely defined pocket allows the blade to be retained using only the single pivot to secure the blades and cooperating members together. The tang and tab being closely engaged with the pocket prevent the blade from moving relative to the cooperating member even though only a single fastener is used.

The examiner rejected claims 1 and 26 over Sorensen in view of McCaw. Sorensen discloses a blade where the cutting edges are disposed on opposite sides of a transverse axis B1-B1 such that the blade is long compared to its width. As a result, approximately one half of the length of the blade extends below the pivot such that the blade may be

held firmly in place. Because the blade of the invention does not extend much beyond the pivot, the problem arises of how to simply secure the blade without the use of additional fasteners such as used in McCaw (or Miller). The present invention solves this problem using a tang and tab in cooperation with the pocket to retain the blade in the cooperating member while using only the single pivot connection. Because Sorensen does not face the same problem it does not disclose the claimed tang and tab secured within the pocket to hold the blade in position.

McCaw also does not disclose such an arrangement. In McCaw the blade is secured in the handle using a pivoting clip 18 to retain the end of the blade. Not only does the use of the clip add to the cost and complexity of the device it is also an ineffective connector in the snips of the invention where high forces may be generated. Thus neither Sorensen nor McCaw either alone or in combination teach the claimed arrangement for securing a removable blade to member.

Likewise, Miller discloses removable blades where the blades are held in place using three fasteners. As will be appreciated the shears of Miller require the fastening and unfastening of three screws to replace each blade. Thus Miller, also does not disclose nor render obvious the claimed invention either alone or in combination with Sorensen and/or McCaw.

It is submitted that claims 1, 26 and 33 are allowable for the reasons set forth above. The remaining claims all depend from one of claims 1, 26 or 33 and are allowable for the same reasons.

If the Examiner has any questions about the present Amendment a telephone interview is requested.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4365.

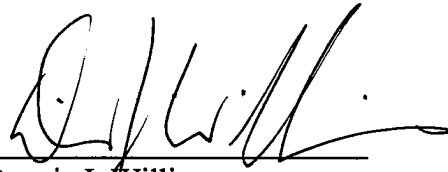
Respectfully submitted,

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